

As Thomas Jefferson once said, Whenever people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government.

Maintaining our commitment to public broadcasting will help keep the very people who elect us well informed, and in doing so, help to promote the integrity and proper functioning of this very body itself.

I applaud the Members of this body who rose to the defense of public broadcasting earlier today by voting to restore funding to a cherished American institution.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST STANLEY "STOSH" LAPINSKI

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to express condolences of a grateful Nation.

I rise to honor the life of Army Specialist Stanley, also known as Stosh, Lapinski. Specialist Lapinski was a recent victim of a terrorist roadside bomb.

During his last conversation before he was killed, Sergeant Lapinski told his parents not to worry about him and he would be fine.

While Stosh did not make it home from Iraq, I am honored to join the Lapinski family for his burial at Arlington National Cemetery next week.

A grateful Nation has brought him home to the honors and accolades he well deserves.

Nothing I could say today would heal the wounds of the Lapinski family. After speaking to them, however, I can tell you that they want their son's sacrifice to be remembered for the good and honorable actions he was doing in Iraq.

His service showed the true American spirit. While the Lapinskis lost their son, they know that he died preserving and fighting for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Americans to join me in honoring a true American hero.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCAUL of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

MERCURY AND AUTISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have been down here a lot talking about autism over the years and my committee had many hearings on the issue of autism. My grandson became autistic after receiving 9 shots in one day, 7 of which contained mercury, in a product called thimerosal. And he is doing better but it has been a very difficult time for me and my family.

I strongly believe that there is a link between the mercury that is in the thimerosal in the vaccines and children developing neurological disorders such as autism. In fact, according to a recent study released by collaboration of U.S. medical researchers from Johns Hopkins University, Northeastern University in Boston, and the University of Nebraska and Tufts University that was published in the Vancouver Sun in February of last year and was officially released in the April 2004 edition of the scientific journal *Molecular Psychiatry*, "A recent review of vaccine-related adverse events in the U.S. found a significant correlation between shots containing thimerosal," i.e. mercury "and autism."

The study further concluded that the use of thimerosal-containing shots could account for the rising rates of autism since the early 1980s when more thimerosal-containing vaccinations were added to the government-mandated childhood vaccination schedule.

Scientific evidence aside, we have seen an increase from 1 in 10,000 children who are autistic to 1 in 166 since they started using thimerosal in many, many vaccines in the early eighties and children started getting more of these shots.

I am not against vaccinations but I do believe, as many of my colleagues, including the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) believe, that mercury should be taken out of all childhood vaccines and in fact all vaccines.

We need to ask ourselves one simple question: What is right? The answer I think is very clear. Get mercury out of all vaccinations.

In reality the answer that is given by far too many officials in our government, health agencies and some Members of Congress, sorry, we cannot help you, and the need to protect the pharmaceutical industry is so great, we cannot do much about it.

□ 1745

Some in my party keep talking about changing the law to protect the drug companies against so-called frivolous lawsuits, and we have to do something to help these families who had their children damaged by the mercury vaccines. I am against class action lawsuits in general. I am for tort reform, but we have got to do something to help these families.

We have tried to talk to the pharmaceutical industry about protecting

them while at the same time changing the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund in a way that will protect these families and help those who have been damaged, but so far we have gotten absolutely nowhere with them; and it is something I think we need to continue to work on.

Just recently, there was an article that was published in a magazine I normally do not read. It is called *Rolling Stone*, but this article was brought to my attention, and I think everybody in this body ought to read that article. It was written by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., somebody who I normally do not read, but I have to tell my colleagues it is a very well-written article. It goes into great detail and scientific research studies on mercury-connected mental disorders caused by the thimerosal in the mercury in these vaccinations.

I would submit to all my colleagues they really need to read this article. I am going to send a Dear Colleague out to all of my colleagues in the House and the Senate over the next couple of days. It is a fairly lengthy article, but it goes into how government officials met with pharmaceutical company officials and deliberately covered up the connection, deliberately covered up the connection between the thimerosal in vaccines and the problems that are being created, neurological problems that have been created in these children, including autism.

All of my colleagues ought to read this and realize that we have had a collaboration between health officials in our government and the pharmaceutical industry to protect themselves from class action lawsuits at the expense of these young kids and families who have been damaged by neurological disorders, including autism.

So I submit to my colleagues who may be in their offices or here tonight, please read this article. It is extremely important. I do not want to hurt the pharmaceutical industry. I would like to protect them from class action lawsuits; but at the same time, we need to change that Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund to take care of these kids that have been damaged and help their families.

DEADLY IMMUNITY

(By Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.)

JUNE 16, 2005.—In June 2000, a group of top government scientists and health officials gathered for a meeting at the isolated Simpsonwood conference center in Norcross, Ga. Convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the meeting was held at this Methodist retreat center, nestled in wooded farmland next to the Chattahoochee River, to ensure complete secrecy. The agency had issued no public announcement of the session—only private invitations to 52 attendees. There were high-level officials from the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration, the top vaccine specialist from the World Health Organization in Geneva, and representatives of every major vaccine manufacturer, including GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Wyeth and Aventis Pasteur. All of the scientific data under discussion, CDC officials repeatedly reminded the participants, was strictly "embargoed." There would be no